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News Release

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Two plea guilty for participation in identity theft ring

MINNEAPOLIS— Two people pleaded guilty Oct. 3 in U.S. District Court to federal charges related to operating an identity theft ring that had targeted the Twin Cities since April of 2006.

Angela Kay Holmes, unknown age and address, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and aggravated identity theft, and one count of aggravated identity theft. Nacole Marie Webster, 30, St. Paul, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and aggravated identity theft, and one count of aggravated identity theft.

Holmes and Webster were two of 12 people charged in a 35-count indictment, which alleges conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, bank fraud and identity theft.. In addition to Holmes and Webster, the other defendants are: Jafari Tywan Banks, 27, Minneapolis; Gregory Allen Chambers Jr., 18, St. Paul; Kate Jacobea Christensen, 25, St. Michael; Tyrone Leeron Dabney, 30, Oakdale; Jonas Patrick Dixon, 36, unknown address; Davina Nessa Harper, 29, Oakdale; Alvin Bernell Moore, 42, unknown address; Monica Lorena Thomas, 35, Richfield; Cornelius Winfield Walker Jr., 26, unknown address; and Alfonzo Eugene Williams, 29, Minneapolis.

According to the indictment, the 12 assumed the identities of victims to secure thousands of dollars in car loan proceeds, as well as vehicles, under false and fraudulent pretenses between April of 2006 through July of 2007.

The indictment stated Banks, Dabney and Walker all stole business files from three Twin Cities-based financial companies. Then they, or any of the others, used the 13 victims' identities to apply for and receive loan proceeds, and to finance and take possession of vehicles. In all cases, one or more of the 12 would use a victim's means of identification to negotiate the loan or to take possession of a vehicle.

Holmes and Webster face maximum potential penalties of five years in federal prison on the conspiracy charge and two years imprisonment on the identity theft charge. The two-year terms would run consecutively with any other prison term. Any sentence, however, will be determined by a federal district court judge.

The case is the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David Genrich.